

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Currently Amended) A lever ring for seaming to a body (20) and for receiving a closure layer (1) affixed with an edge by means of sealing and for bridging an inner space of the lever ring, to close the body (20) in a seam-connected position, wherein

- (i) the lever ring comprises a continuous flat web (3a, 3b, 3c) which radially outwardly changes into ~~a~~an edge rim (2) of the lever ring, a continuous groove (N1, N2, N3) extending between the edge rim and the flat web;
- (ii) the flat web is suitable for connecting an edge of the closure layer by sealing, and extends with respect to a plane of the closure layer (1), that has been connected by such sealing, at an angle ( $\alpha_1$ ,  $\alpha_2$ ,  $\alpha_3$ ) differing from zero.

2. (Original) A lever ring for seaming to a body (20) and for receiving a closure layer (1) affixed with an edge by means of sealing and for bridging an inner space of the lever ring, to close the body (20) in a seam-connected position, wherein

- (i) the lever ring comprises a continuous flat web (3a, 3b, 3c) which radially outwardly changes into an edge rim (2) of the lever ring, a continuous groove (N1, N2, N3) extending between the edge rim and the flat web;

- (ii) the flat web extends upwardly inclined from a horizontal plane and is provided with an inner curling (4) on its radially inner end so that a closure layer (1) affixed to it by sealing (30) introduces a substantial force component (z) into a sealing seam (30), so that the force component extends in an extension direction of the sealing seam, upon a pressure force ( $F_i$ ) acting vertically to a plane of extension of the closure layer.
3. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 2 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the angle differing from zero is between substantially  $10^\circ$  and substantially  $90^\circ$ .
4. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 2 ~~any of claims 1 or 2~~, wherein the angle ( $\alpha_2$ ) is between substantially  $40^\circ$  and  $60^\circ$ .
5. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 2 ~~any of claims 1 or 2~~, wherein the angle ( $\alpha_2$ ) is between substantially  $25^\circ$  and  $35^\circ$ .
6. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 2 ~~any of claims 1 or 2~~, wherein the angle ( $\alpha_2$ ) is between substantially  $80^\circ$  and  $90^\circ$ .

7. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 2 ~~claim 1 or 2~~, wherein the angle differing from zero extends substantially vertically to the extension of the plane of the closure layer (1).
8. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 2 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein said receiving of the closure layer is a sealing of an edge of the closure layer by a sealing strip (30) on the flat web (3a, 3b, 3c) which sealing strip extends circumferentially.
9. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 2 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the flat web comprises radially inwards an inner curling (4).
10. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 2 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the closure layer extends on the inner curling (4) and is deflected (u) so that an edge strip (1b) is formed, which extends at an angle differing from zero, with respect to the plane of the closure layer (1) in the inner area of the lever ring.
11. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 2 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the closure layer is formed as a foil or membrane made of one or more materials selected from a group consisting of: plastic, sheet metal, metal foil, and compound foil, ~~in particular of plastic material or sheet metal or a metal foil or compound foil (compound layer)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 2 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the sealing seam (30) as a strip extending circumferentially has a substantial width on the extension of the flat web (3), this width being more than half the width of the flat web.
13. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 2 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the inner curling axially projects above an upper side of the lid rim (2) with an alignment of the flat web (3a) that projects steeply upwards.
14. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 2 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the groove (N1, N2, N3) is of a wedge-shaped design with a rounded bottom and is formed between a chuck wall extending towards the lid rim (2) and the flat web (3a, 3b, 3c) that is oriented in an inclined fashion.
15. (New) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the angle differing from zero is between substantially 10° and substantially 90°.
16. (New) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the angle ( $\alpha_2$ ) is between substantially 40° and 60°.
17. (New) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the angle ( $\alpha_2$ ) is between substantially 25° and 35°.

18. (New) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the angle ( $\alpha_2$ ) is between substantially 80° and 90°.
19. (New) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the angle differing from zero extends substantially vertically to the extension of the plane of the closure layer (1).
20. (New) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein said receiving of the closure layer is a sealing of an edge of the closure layer by a sealing strip (30) on the flat web (3a, 3b, 3c) which sealing strip extends circumferentially.
21. (New) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the flat web comprises radially inwards an inner curling (4).
22. (New) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the closure layer extends on the inner curling (4) and is deflected (u) so that an edge strip (1b) is formed, which extends at an angle differing from zero, with respect to the plane of the closure layer (1) in the inner area of the lever ring.
23. (New) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the closure layer is formed as a membrane made of one or more materials selected from a group consisting of: plastic, sheet metal, metal foil, and compound foil.

24. (New) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the sealing seam (30) as a strip extending circumferentially has a substantial width on the extension of the flat web (3), this width being more than half the width of the flat web.

25. (New) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the inner curling axially projects above an upper side of the lid rim (2) with an alignment of the flat web (3a) that projects steeply upwards.

26. (New) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the groove (N1, N2, N3) is of a wedge-shaped design with a rounded bottom and is formed between a chuck wall extending towards the lid rim (2) and the flat web (3a, 3b, 3c) that is oriented in an inclined fashion.